

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 SAJ-01

OES-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 ITC-01 FRB-01 XMB-04 ACDA-10

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R 281630Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPNEHANGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

US EC BRUSSELS 0391

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0591

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC GW UK

SUBJECT: GOI SAYS NO IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON FRG
FISHERIES AGREEMENT

REF: BONN 6909 (261251Z APR)

1. IN FIRST DEFINITIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON FUTURE OF ICELAND-FRG
FISHERIES AGREEMENT, GOI LEADERS SAID YESTERDAY THAT NO IMMEDIATE
ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF PACT.

2. PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON TOLD PRESS THAT ICELAND WOULD TAKE NO
PARTICULAR STEPS NOW TO AFFECT VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT. "GOI
CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE TO GIVE FRG CHANCE TO EXPLAIN EFFORTS
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IT HAS MADE WITHIN EEC TO BRING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF TARIFF

AGREEMENT BETWEEN EEC AND ICELAND," PM SAID. HE ADDED THAT GOI IS AWARE THAT GERMANS HAVE WORKED TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF TARIFF AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO TAKE ACTION THAT WOULD UPSET THIS PROCESS. HALLGRIMSSON MENTIONED NO TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH FURTHER GOI REVIEW OF STATUS OF FRG AGREEMENT MIGHT OCCUR.

3. FONMIN AGUSTSSON EXPLAINED SITUATION IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TERMS, SAYING THAT GOI HAD TAKEN NO DECISION ON CONTINUED VALIDITY OF FRG FISHERIES PACT AND THAT, PENDING SUCH DECISION, AGREEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT. AGUSTSSON DID NOT MENTION FRG EFFORTS IN ICELAND'S BEHALF INSIDE EEC NOR DID HE SUGGEST THAT REPORT ON SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD DETERMINE EVENTUAL GOI DECISION.

4. BOTH OFFICIALS SEEMED AT PAINS TO AVOID SUGGESTION THAT GOI HAD MADE ANY DECISION AGAINST EVENTUALLY SUSPENDING AGREEMENT WITH BONN. RATHER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT STATUS QUO WOULD BE PRESERVED PENDING FURTHER DETERMINATION. DESPITE THIS CIRCUMSPECTION, POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND FISHERIES HARDLINERS IN GENERAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO SUSPEND FRG AGREEMENT IN EFFORT TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON UK.
MARTIN

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